

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 HA-05 DIWY-01 CU-04 CIAE-00
DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05
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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SHUM IR
SUBJ: WOMEN ORGANIZE PEACEFUL -ANTI-REACTIONARY" DEMONSTRATIONS

REF: TEHRAN 0548

1. IN RESPONSE TO RECENT DISTURBANCES PROTESTING IRANIAN WOMEN'S EMANCIPATION (REFTEL, THE WOMEN'S ORGANIZATION OF IRAN (WOI) COORDINATED A NUMBER OF NON-VIOLENT COUNTER-DEMONSTRATIONS ON JAN 22. NEWS STORIES PROMINENTLY FEATURED IN ALL PAPERS REPORT MASS RALLIES IN OVER 400 CITIES AND TOWNS THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY IN WHICH "TENS OF THOUSANDS" OF WOMEN PARTICIPATED. IN ADDITION, GOVT MINISTRIES (INCLUDING MFA), PRIVATE COMPANIES AND THE WOI ITSELF STAGED MEETINGS IN TEHRAN.

2. AT A GATHERING OF GOI EMPLOYEES AT THE PRIMINS OFFICE, MIN OF STATE FOR WOMEN'S AFFAIRS AND WOI SEC GEN MAHNAZ AFKHAMI TOLD THE ASSEMBLED WOMEN THAT MEETINGS ON JAN 22 WERE HELD TO DISPLAY WOMEN'S UNITED RANKS IN OPPOSITION TO "TREASONOUS CONSPIRACIES". AFKHAMI, ON BEHALF OF IRANIAN WOMEN, FORWARDED A TELEGRAM TO THE SHAH ASSERTING THAT WOMEN HAD DECLARED WAR ON "AGENTS OF FOREIGNERS
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AND REACTIONARIES WHO WANT WOMEN TO RETURN TO THE INFERNAL PERIOD OF THE PAST". ALONG WITH THESE SENTIMENTS, RITUALISTIC SUPPORTIVE STATEMENTS APPEARED AFFIRMING IRANIAN WOMEN'S FAITH IN THE THREE PRINCIPLES OF THE RASTAKHIZ PARTY-- MONARCHY, CONSTITUTION AND THE WHITE REVOLUTION.

3. COMMENT: THEME OF MEETINGS ECHO VIEWS RECENTLY EXPRESSED

TO EMBOFF BY WOI DEP DIR EZZAT AGHEVLI THAT "FOREIGN
ELEMENTS", ARE BEHIND ANTI-WOMEN'S RIGHTS PROTESTORS. LOWER
RANKING WOI OFFICIAL CONFIRMED JAN 23 THAT ORGANIZATION
HAS BEEN BUSY ORGANIZING NOT ONLY JAN 22 TURNOUT, BUT ALSO
MASS PARTICIPATION BY WOMEN IN THE UPCOMING RALLIES CELEBRATING
6TH OF BAHMAN (ANNIVERSARY OF THE WHITE REVOLUTION, JAN 26)
AND ON 8TH OF ESGAND (IRANIAN WOMEN'S RIGHTS DAY, FEB 27).
SULLIVAN

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